

SOUTH QUEENSLAND MARSUPIALS.

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MACROPUS RUFICOLLIS Desm.

Although the pelts of *Macropus ruficollis* Desm. have been frequently noted by the writer during the large sales of marsupial skins in Brisbane, no specimens with definite Queensland localities were obtained until July last, when Mr. M. J. Colclough of our staff secured two males and two females at Mundubbera, Burnett District. This is the most northerly record for the species. Except for a reference in Ogilby's Catalogue* and a note by Lonnberg and Mjoberg of a skin from Tambourine Mountain†, there appear to have been no registrations of this large wallaby for Queensland.

A NEW MACROPOD.

Notwithstanding its proximity to Brisbane, Stradbroke Island in Moreton Bay has never been satisfactorily searched for its mammals. This large island, thirty-three miles in length and attaining a breadth of seven miles, has big areas which are very rarely visited. Although *Petauroides volans* and *Petaurus* sp. are reported, we have no records of other Phalangeridæ, but Mr. Roland Illidge notes‡ having seen the nest or "drey" of a ring-tailed opossum over forty years ago. Bandicoots (*Isoodon macrurus*) are common. Very large specimens of the great grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*) are to be occasionally seen, and a common wallaby is *M. ualabatus* of the mainland. In the early days pelt-hunters took a heavy toll, but fortunately the island was recently added to the many reserves which have been proclaimed in Queensland.

Mr. Colclough remembers seeing many years ago numbers of what was known as the Red Stradbroke Wallaby, which then frequented the open forest and grasslands of this large island, occasionally being seen also on the sea shore. Unfortunately no specimens were secured for this Museum. Through the kindness of Mr. Thomas Welsby, of Amity Point, whose writings have added much to our knowledge of Moreton Bay, we received some time ago two heads, with perfect skulls, forepaws, and a pelt of this very elusive red wallaby. Later on we hope to secure, by special permit, additional material, but as it is obvious that this marsupial presents characteristics which make it distinct from described forms, a preliminary notice is here given.

* J. Douglas Ogilby, Catal. Austr. Mamm. Austr., Mus., 1892, p. 56.

† Lonnberg and Mjoberg, Kungl. Sven. Vet. Ak. Hr., Bd. 52, 1915, p. 7.

‡ R. Illidge, Qld. Naturalist, III, No. 6, 1922, p. 109.

MACROPUS WELSBYI new species.

THE RED STRADBROKE WALLABY.

Size medium; general form robust; not slender. Colour remarkably uniform, agreeing best with the "orange-rufous" of Ridgeway's nomenclature (Plate IV. No. 13); this colour extends on the top and sides of the head to the region of the orbits, also on the sides and limbs, but is distinctly lighter on the ventral surfaces and base of tail (tail incomplete), and merges into brown on the forepaws. Fur fine and silky in texture; hairs on back fully 35 m.m. long, but with no outstanding longer hairs with special colour zones. The bases of the hairs are buff-coloured throughout. Top of muzzle grizzled. With the exception of a darker area below the eye, which merges towards the nasals into the grizzled appearance of the muzzle, there are no face-markings, and there is no indication of a white whisker stripe.

Rhinarium large and naked, the wide superior border of granulated area being almost straight, and in this respect corresponding closely with that of *ualabatus*. Ears oval, thick and muscular, 80 m.m. in length; thickly clothed externally with the uniform orange-rufous hairs; almost naked interiorly except for strong lateral tufts and a few scattered hairs.

Skull.—The type skull is from a specimen which is not fully mature. The third premolar and also m.p.⁴ (using Thomas's notation from the British Museum Catalogue) are still in place. The labial portion of p.⁴ has been exposed from the alveolus, and it is evident that this tooth is of the massive *ualabatus* type, with prominent vertical ridges, the length being 9 mm. The fourth true molar is only just beginning to emerge.

Facial axis short, 208. Premaxillæ short and upright, with the sutures only slightly oblique. Nasals parallel in region of premaxillæ, then gradually increasing in breadth to the fronto-maxillary suture; slightly emarginated in the sagittal line at the union with the frontals. No distinct postorbital processes, and no marked constriction, but supraorbital ridges prominent. Frontal region very slightly concave. Infraorbital foramina opening 9 mm. from orbit. Palatal openings oval, 11 mm. in length.

Front incisors placed vertically as in *ualabatus*; 1.³ with the posterior segment slightly shorter than that anterior to the notch; p.³ oval, 7 mm. long. Measurements, basal length 110; greatest breadth 64; nasals: length 45, greatest breadth 15.5, central breadth 10; intertemporal breadth 18.5; palate length 70, breadth outside m.² (perm. teeth) 34, inside m.², 20; palatal foramina 6.5; diastema to p.m.⁴ 18; basi-cranial axis 35; basifacial axis 75; facial axis 208; Teeth, length of third incisor 7.5, length of p.⁴ (measured in alveolus) 9; length of m.¹ — m.³ (permanent molars) 22.

To facilitate comparisons, these measurements have been taken on the lines of Thomas's Catalogue.

The narrower nasals (especially in their expanded region) are an outstanding feature when this skull is compared with a series of a dozen *ualabatus*. Both the internal and the external nares are relatively smaller in the island species. The palatal openings are smaller and the anterior foramina are narrower than in *ualabatus*, but these last two features are too variable to be of much value.

In colour *Macropus welsbyi* most nearly resembles the large kangaroo *M. antilopinus*, from the Coburg Peninsula. It is quite distinct from *M. ualabatus ingrami*, described by Thomas in 1908*, and from the North Queensland *M. ualabatus apicalis*.

Apart from cranial characteristics, the presence of these very handsome red wallabies has been so often vouched for by naturalists visiting Stradbroke that it is impossible to dismiss them as examples of erythrisms. But for the fact that specimens of typical *ualabatus* are also found on Stradbroke, these uniformly-coloured wallabies might be considered a well-marked island variety of the common species.

MACROPUS AGILIS Gould.

It is somewhat of a surprise to receive from Stradbroke Island a large pelt, accompanied with a skull, of *Macropus agilis* Gould. This was secured in 1918 by Mr. Frank Day and Mr. Thomas Welsby at Wallin Creek, near Amity Point, Stradbroke. The Queensland Museum has a fair series of these large wallabies, but the previous most southerly record was Fitzroy River, "40 miles from Rockhampton," where the late Kendall Broadbent obtained six specimens in 1887. (This Fitzroy River must not be confounded with the West Australian Fitzroy.)

In 1910 E. Schwarz recognised four sub-species of *M. agilis* as follows:—*M. agilis*, Gould, *sensu stricto*, Arnhem Land; *M. agilis papuanus*, Ptrs and Doria, Southern Papua; *M. agilis jardinei* De Vis., Northern Queensland; *M. agilis avrescens* Schw., W. Kimberley, West Australia.†

In 1913 E. Lonnberg described *M. agilis nigrescens* as a fifth subspecies, the locality being Broome, North-west Australia.‡

The Stradbroke pelt agrees best with the large type specimen of *Macropus jardinei*, now somewhat faded, but it is decidedly lighter and only a very few long hairs with dark tips are present. It is probable that this is due to

* Oldfield Thomas P.Z.S., 1908 p. 792.

† E. Schwarz, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8), V. 1910, pp. 164-6.

‡ E. Lonnberg, Kungl. Sv. Vet. Ak. Hgr., Bd. 52, No. 1, 1913.

summer pelage. Considerable difference can be noted in a series of twenty specimens of Queensland *agilis*, and the amount of dark colouring is most variable. The Stradbroke specimen is not so richly coloured as several of the northern examples. It represents a large male. No special characteristics can be found to differentiate the skull from those of northern specimens. A second skull, which is immature, has also been received from Stradbroke.

The following are the dimensions of the large Stradbroke skull, the corresponding figures for a Cardwell, North Queensland, specimen being given in parentheses:—Basal length 145 (142); greatest breadth 78 (81); nasals: length 66 (66); greatest breadth 22 (22); central breadth 16 (16); inter-temporal constriction 16 (15); palate length 98 (100); breadth outside m^2 45 (45), inside m^2 29 (29); palatal foramina 9 (8); diastema 35 (33); basi-cranial axis 40 (38), basifacial axis 106 (107), basifacial index 265 (278); teeth, length of p^4 9.5 (10), length of $m^1 - m^3$ 25.5 (26.5).

Mr. A. S. Le Souef, Director of the Zoological Gardens, Sydney, informs me in correspondence that he also has a pelt of *Macropus agilis* from Stradbroke Island.
